

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:

an apparatus body;

image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;

counting means for counting prints sequentially output with the replaceable part;

storing means and first writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body;

second writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in the replaceable part; and

control means for storing a limit number of prints particular to the replaceable part in said first nonvolatile storing means, storing, after an image forming operation, a cumulative number of prints printed by said replaceable part in said storing means at least until the replaceable part is replaced with a different replaceable part and in said second nonvolatile storing means, and reporting a time for replacing said replaceable part when said cumulative number stored in said storing means exceeds said limit number of prints stored in said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means stores ID (identification) information of an individual replaceable part in said second nonvolatile storing means, transfers said ID information to said storing means when said replaceable part is used, reads said ID information out of said second nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is mounted to said apparatus body, and updates, if said ID information is not identical with ID information particular to a previous replaceable part

stored in said storing means, contents of said storing means with the number of prints and said ID information stored in said second nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means stores ID (identification) information of an individual replaceable part in said second nonvolatile storing means, transfers said ID information to said first nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is used, reads said ID information out of said second nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is mounted to said apparatus body, and updates, if said ID information is not identical with ID information particular to a previous replaceable part stored in said first nonvolatile storing means, contents of said first nonvolatile storing means with said ID information stored in said second nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 23 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 24 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an apparatus body;  
image forming means at least partly implemented by a replaceable part, which is removably mounted to said apparatus body;  
counting means for counting prints output with the replaceable part;  
first writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in said apparatus body;  
second writable and readable nonvolatile storing means built in the replaceable part;  
and

control means for storing a limit number of prints particular to the replaceable part in said first nonvolatile storing means, storing, after an image forming operation, a cumulative number of prints printed by said replaceable part in said first nonvolatile storing means at least until the replaceable part is replaced with a different replaceable part and in said second nonvolatile storing means, and reporting a time for replacing said replaceable part when said cumulative number stored in said first nonvolatile storing means exceeds said limit number of prints stored in said second nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 26 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said control means stores ID information of an individual replaceable part in said second nonvolatile storing means, transfers said ID information to said first nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is used, reads said ID information out of said second nonvolatile storing means when said replaceable part is mounted to said apparatus body, and updates, if said ID information is not identical with ID information particular to a previous replaceable part stored in said first nonvolatile storing means, contents of said first nonvolatile storing means with the number of prints and said ID information stored in said second nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 28 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 30 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 31 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 32 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 33 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 34 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising means for allowing the limit number of prints to be variably written to said first nonvolatile storing means.

Claim 35 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 36 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 37 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 38 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said controller corrects, in accordance with an image forming condition, a count sequentially incremented for determining the cumulative number of prints.

Claim 39 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the image forming condition is based on image density.

Claim 40 (Original): The apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the image forming condition is based on a resource and energy save mode available for image formation.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): In an IC (Integrated Circuit) chip to be connected to a CPU (Central Processing Unit) built in an apparatus body of an image forming apparatus when removably mounted to said apparatus body, and including nonvolatile storing means



allowing data to be written therein or read thereout of under control of said CPU, said nonvolatile storing means stores ID information particular to said IC chip and a cumulative number of prints output by said apparatus body with said IC chip,

the ID information and the cumulative number of prints are read out of said storing means and transferred to said apparatus body when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body, and

after management information including the cumulative number of prints have been processed, an existing cumulative number of prints stored within the apparatus body at least until the IC chip is removed and replaced with a different IC chip is updated by the cumulative number of prints transferred from said IC chip.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): In a replaceable part included in image forming means of an image forming apparatus, an IC chip is built in said replaceable part and connected to a CPU built in an apparatus body of said image forming apparatus when removably mounted to said apparatus body, and including nonvolatile storing means allowing data to be written therein or read thereout of under control of said CPU, said nonvolatile storing means stores ID information particular to said replaceable part and a cumulative number of prints output by said apparatus body with said IC chip,

the ID information and the cumulative number of prints are read out of said storing means and transferred to said apparatus body and stored in the apparatus body when said IC chip is mounted to said apparatus body at least until the replaceable part is replaced with a different replaceable part, and

after a cumulative number of prints output by said image forming apparatus with said replaceable part has been determined and after a time for replacing said replaceable part has been determined on the basis of said cumulative number of prints stored in said apparatus

body, an existing cumulative number of prints stored in said storing means is updated by the cumulative number of prints transferred to said replaceable part from said apparatus body.